



BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

#3

Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: January 11, 2011
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
SUBJECT: 2011 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

1. Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2011 Legislative Platform; and
2. Adopt the County's 2011 Legislative Platform.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the County's legislative platform for the upcoming year. Each year, the County identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs ("priorities") to include within the County's legislative platform. Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the 2011 Legislative Platform ("platform") will be used by the County to communicate the County's priorities to the federal and state governments.

Background:

The development of the platform began in late August, when the County's Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") reviewed the proposed timeline and platform process. County departments and other organizations such as the National Association of Counties and the California State Association of Counties were contacted during September to solicit input regarding potential priorities. The Committee held four meetings from September-December to review the priorities and recommended, during the December 21, 2010 meeting, to bring the proposed 2011 platform to the Board for consideration. During the development of priorities, County staff also discussed potential issues and projects with its federal and state delegation and began designing a legislative strategy. Strategies involve funding requests, crafting new or amending existing legislation and advocacy of program and grant funding and regulatory reform. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, it will be used to communicate the County's priorities to the County's federal and state government and other intergovernmental entities.

The proposed 2011 platform includes:

1. Appropriation requests: The County submits appropriation requests to the federal government for various infrastructure projects and programs. Usually, these projects have a federal nexus. Requests include the cost of completing a phase or portion of a project rather than the entire project. Projects include:
 - Goleta Beach County Park
 - Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
 - Lake Cachuma
 - Lower Mission Creek
 - Parks / Open Space (Gaviota Coast, Point Sal and Walter Capps Park)
 - Safety Improvement Public Beach Access
 - Santa Barbara Health and Human Services Campus Upgrades
 - Santa Maria River Levee-Reach 3 Extension of Improvements
 - Veterans Memorial Buildings- Lompoc and Santa Barbara
2. Proposed legislation: The County proposes ideas for new legislation or amendments to existing law that would help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations and service delivery. Proposed State legislation seeks to address the following issues:
 - Alcohol Licensing- Create consistency in licensing for wine tasting rooms and wine bars.
 - District Attorney- Ensure parents are accountable for truant children; strengthen prosecutions to reduce cyber bullying; and strengthen prosecution of sexual crimes.
 - Elections Process- Achieve efficiencies in managing the number of precincts required by law by consolidating precincts, converting precincts to vote-by-mail or expanding vote-by-mail.
 - Emergency Medical Services Fund- Continue penalties on motor vehicle and criminal fines to partially compensate healthcare providers for uncompensated emergency medical services.
 - Highway 154 Safety- Regulate size and weight of trucks that use this road.
 - Lake Cachuma - Quagga Mussels- Develop statewide mussel prevention/inspection program.
3. Targeted advocacy: The County advocates for specific issues, programs, or projects. This includes advocacy for retention or enhancement in funding for existing programs including:
 - Agriculture / Williamson Act Subvention Funding
 - Affordable Housing Opportunities / Rent Control/Preservation of Mobile Homes
 - Air Quality- Marine Vessel Emissions
 - Children Issues (Child Care, Prop 10 funding for early childhood development and school readiness and State Children's Health Insurance Program)
 - Economic Enhancement / Revenue Diversification
 - Disaster Preparedness / Bioterrorism, Firefighter Assistance Grant, Public Safety Funding
 - Homelessness
 - Local Control of Speed Limits, Transportation Funding
 - Social Services (Child Welfare Services, In-Home Support Services, Privatization of Public Assistance Programs, State Funding, Summer Employment Youth Programs, TANF Reauthorization and Workforce Investment Board Waivers)
 - Telecommunications Regulations

Attachments: 2011 Proposed Legislative Platform

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568-3400

cc:

Tom Walters, Tom Walters and Associates, Inc., Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
Department Directors